

The present problem deals not so much with the clinical phases of the subject, as with the question of whether we should continue the old classification of meta-syphilitic diseases, and their therapy. Nonne in a recent paper before the International Congress in London took the attitude that we are unable at the present moment to say definitely what is a meta-syphilitic disease and what is not, and the only thing we can definitely say is, that syphilis causes this and that disease, and that the best thing to do is to wait and see what further advances will teach. As far as the therapy is concerned, he states that he is not as hopeless regarding the therapy of tabes as others are, for he himself has seen four cases in which the Argyll-Robertson pupils have disappeared under mercury and salvarsan. The reviewer can only repeat that this is the best book on syphilis of the nervous system and the translator has done his work well.

T. H. W.

TEXT-BOOK OF GENERAL AND SPECIAL PATHOLOGY, FOR STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS. By HENRY T. BROOKS, M.D., formerly Professor of Pathology at the New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital. Pp. 1127; 525 illustrations (110 in colors) and 15 plates in colors. Philadelphia: F. A. Davis Company, 1912.

THIS book was started as a translation of Langerhans "Grundriss der Pathologischen Anatomie," but advances in the science and the death of the German pathologist caused the author to adopt another method in the preparation of his book. The work is intended to follow the pathological physiology through the various evidences of disease, physical changes being traced as evidence of these altered processes. The book is not a physiological chemistry but the metabolic reasons for the pathological states are emphasized. Minute pathology is more extensive than the gross which is given in a sketchy manner. The author aims at assisting the student and the physician in the interpretation of clinical conditions. The first half is devoted to the broad principles of pathology, the second half to special organs. In the first part considerable attention is given to peculiar manifestation of the different diseases in special organs. Similar treatment is found under inflammations. The chapters on immunity and on the eye are by collaborators. The latter is, in length, out of all proportion to the rest of the book occupying 150 pages while the vascular system is accorded less than 40. The result is, however, a fairly complete, condensed, and readable pathology of the eye, a thing uncommon in most one-volume general pathologies. The method of spelling all adjectives and adverbs such as clinical and clinically without the "al" seems to the reviewer to be not wholly advisable. "Clinic" and "clinically"

are especially awkward. The illustrations are mostly copied and the one-toned colored pictures are sometimes indistinct. The schematic originals intended to show certain physical relations of disease are much better. The English reads easily except for the form of adjectives noted above. On the whole, in spite of the large number of general pathologies that already exist, the book should prove of value. H. F.

TEXT-BOOK OF OBSTETRICS. By BARTON COOKE HIRST, M.D.,
Professor of Obstetrics in the University of Pennsylvania.
Pp. 1013; 895 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B.
Saunders Co., 1913.

VERY little that is new has occurred in obstetrics since the previous edition, but those procedures that have any bearing upon modern obstetrics are embodied in this work. The author is most enthusiastic about the close relationship of obstetrics and gynecology, and many so-called gynecological operations are described in detail. The physiology of the process of generation precedes the pathology, except that sterility is taken up in connection with normal conception and malpositions, and presentations are studied with the mechanisms of labor. The pathology of the breast is treated more fully than in the previous edition; especially is this true of malignant disease. There are also many new illustrations which aid materially in teaching. The author comments more favorably in this edition, upon extra-peritoneal Cesarean section, and thinks its field has enlarged. It is generally believed, however, that suspect and infected cases had best not be subjected to any method wherein the uterus is opened, intra- or extra-peritoneally, and allowed to remain after the child is removed.

The author's practice of delaying repair of a primary laceration of the perineum until the end of the first week, has not met with the approval of the majority of obstetricians. A second etherization and disturbance of the patient just when conditions are resuming the normal, seem unwarranted, when one considers the good results obtained by an immediate repair.

The author has commented freely upon the newer ideas in obstetrical teaching, such as the use of the active principle of the pituitary gland in uterine inertia, the significance of the changes in blood pressure in toxemias, serum therapy in puerperal infections, the inadvisability of doing hysterectomy in early puerperal infection, and the excision of thrombosed pelvic veins. His teaching on all these subjects is conservative and sound. The work is most readable, the subjects are disposed of in a clear, concise, and up-to-date manner, equally valuable to pupil and general practitioner. E. P. B.